



FREE  
LIKE WE ALL  
SHOULD BE

A COLLECTIVE  
VIEW OF  
MODERN SOCIETY



WELCOME TO THE SIXTH MOMENTOUS ISSUE OF .IN\*! THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT RESPONSE TO THE LAST ONE. WE HOPE YOU FIND THIS EDITION JUST AS ENTERTAINING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING.

DUE TO THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS FEVER, THIS ISSUE IS BEING DISTRIBUTED AS A PDF RIGHT AWAY. WE'RE GOING TO DO OUR USUAL GUERILLA MARKETING AND SPAM THE WORLD WITH IT ... DIGITALLY THIS TIME.

IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES. CHECK OUT OUR ADVERTISERS' WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA AND BUY WHAT YOU CAN. THEY HAVE BEEN GOOD TO US. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE STILL THERE WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER.

.IN\* SINCERELY HOPES THAT YOU ARE ALL WELL AND HOLDING UP MENTALLY AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY DURING THIS STAY-AT-HOME/SOCIAL-DISTANCING/LOCK-DOWN/MARTIAL LAW/WHATEVER THIS TURNS INTO. KNOW THAT IT'S FOR THE BEST, AND THE SOONER AND MORE COMPLETELY WE SEPARATE OURSELVES, THE SOONER THIS WILL BE OVER. DO ALL YOU CAN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND UTILITIES PAYMENTS BREAKS.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE ...

SEE PAGE 17 FOR OUR AWESOME T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY!

#### COVER ART:

THIS ISSUE'S COVER ART IS BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHANIA TOOMER WHO PARTICIPATES IN SHANE MANIER'S STUDENT ART PROGRAM WHICH HELPS PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TEEN ARTISTS. TOOMER'S PAINTING IS TITLED "BASQUIAT SERIES: SPEAK OUT." PURCHASE ART FROM THE STUDENT ART PROGRAM AT [SHANEMANIER.COM/STUDENT-ART-PROGRAM](http://SHANEMANIER.COM/STUDENT-ART-PROGRAM)



YOU CAN FIND .IN\* ON FACEBOOK @INXCOMIC FOLLOW US THERE FOR OUR ORIGINAL MISSION STATEMENT, DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS AND BACK ISSUES.



AND ON INSTAGRAM @INXCOMIC FOLLOW US THERE FOR PHOTOS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AN OCCASIONAL CONTEST.

SEND YOUR COMMENTS, STORIES AND ART SUBMISSIONS TO .IN\* AT  
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# A true encounter

by Greg Russell

What is it like in there?  
I'm not a racist, but are  
there **blacks** or **whites** ...?



I've been around 58 years,  
and that's the **most racist**  
**thing** I've ever heard!

If that thought even entered  
your **head**, you're a racist.

If you have to start a  
sentence with "I'm **not**  
a racist," **you're** a racist.



\*Actually, these responses came to me four hours later. Don't be a Greg. Speak up and let these louts know we won't stand for any racist behavior.

"Revert to normal?

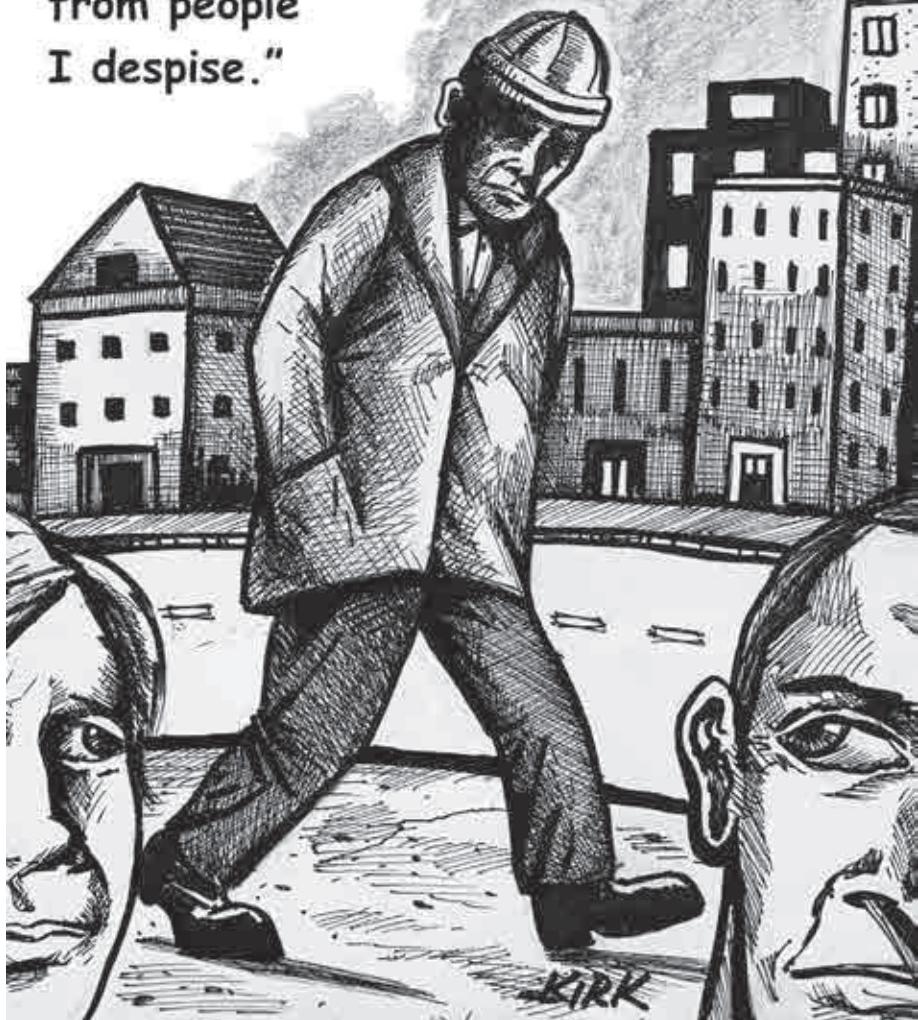
written by Randy Crawford

art by Jerry Kirk

Naw...

I like it on the fringes.

I'd rather die smiling  
than trying and lying  
to get approval  
from people  
I despise."



# PÜRGATORY

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PERFORMANCE ART, AND EDM EVENT,  
FEATURING INTERACTIVE CONSENSUAL  
BDSM DEMONSTRATIONS IN A SAFE AND  
SANE ENVIRONMENT."

# Nu Star Coffee

I am the greatest barista ever, making each customer happy beyond belief whilst satiating their desire for non-boredom using the power of legal, liquid speed.

Say! Is that chick rolling her fucking eyes at me? Stuck up bitch ... I should cut your eyes out and eat your face off ...

"Yes sir, will that be all for you today?"



by Michael Greeley

# S.O.S.

## Save Our Species

Honestly, people, we hold the power.  
Why are we acting as if this pandemic  
is out of our control???

- ♥ What if we stop?
- ♥ What if we stop listening to politicians and do what is best for our species?
- ♥ What if we stop chasing wealth and do what is best for our species?
- ♥ What if we stop being scared of losing material wealth and do what is best for our species?
- ♥ What if we stop being afraid of what might be and work with what is and do what is best for our species?
- ♥ What if we stop seeing differences and see us as one species?
- ♥ What if we stop all the craziness and realize that, as a species, we all need and depend on each other and work to save our species?
- ♥ What if we stop our greed and selfish thoughts and work toward saving our species?
- ♥ What if we stop being the media's sheep and know that we are intelligent enough to make the best decision for our species?
- ♥ What if we dig deep and manifest our ultimate power, as a whole, to save our species?

If you think about it, in this race, if you are the winner, there will be no one around to crown you the victor.



by Harriet Russell  
art Greg Russell

# PINKY'S

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# Global Pandemic

by Ani Todd

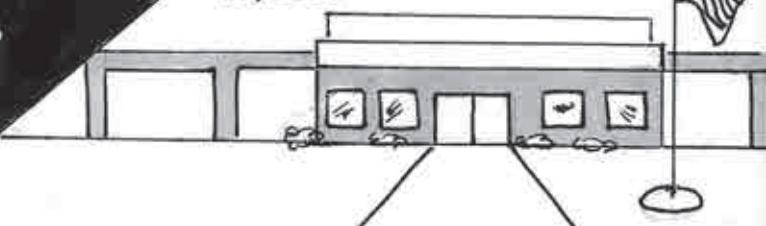
WHAT'S WRONG, EARTH?  
YOU LOOK MISERABLE.

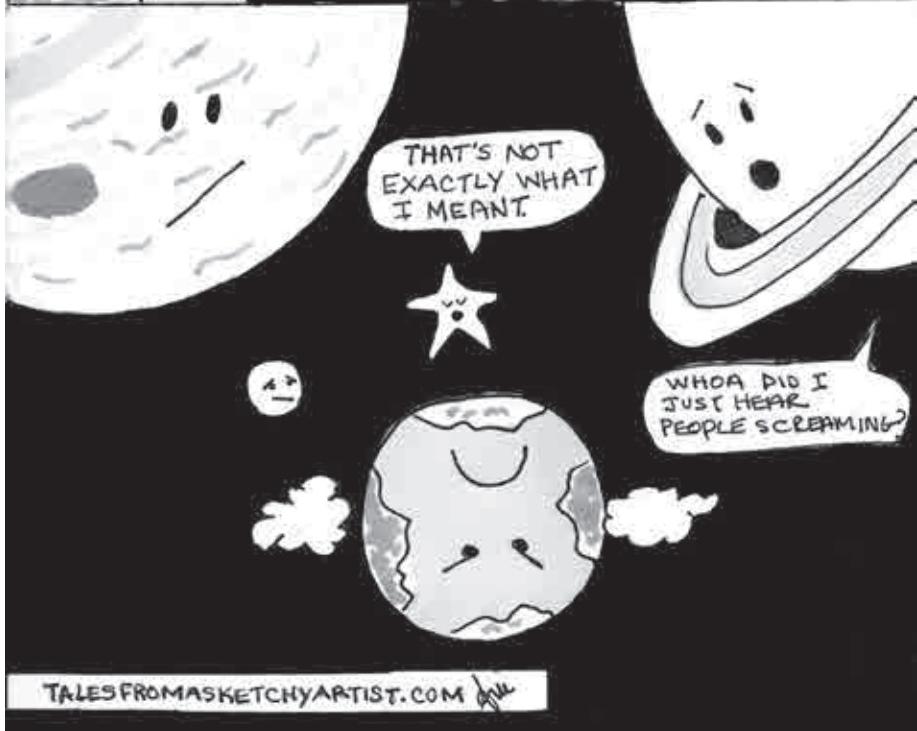
UGH! THERE'S JUST  
A WHOLE LOT OF  
UGLINES GOING ON WITH  
THE SPREAD OF THIS  
CORONAVIRUS.

THERE'S BEEN A COUNTLESS NUMBER  
OF DEATHS GLOBALLY. THIS VIRUS IS  
STILL A MYSTERY AND THE SPREADING  
OF MISINFORMATION IS CAUSING  
THE PUBLIC TO PANIC.

TOILET PAPER AND  
DISINFECTANT ARE  
WORTH MORE THAN  
GOLD!

PEOPLE ARE OUT OF WORK  
BECAUSE SMALL BUSINESSES  
ARE CLOSING AND SO ARE  
SCHOOLS.





TALES FROM A SKETCHY ARTIST.COM

# Star Dork



by Henry Eudy

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# LIFE DURING CORONA

BY JERRY KIRK



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APRIL 1, 2020 AND  
APRIL 30, 2020 WINS!

4 WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED!



TAG YOUR FRIENDS ON  
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THE MOST TAGS BETWEEN  
APRIL 1, 2020 AND  
APRIL 30, 2020 WINS!

4 WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED!



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COLOR: OFF-WHITE

# Cartoons by Karla Holland



Based on an actual  
moment in  
Frida Kahlo's life.





# PRE-COVID COMICS



\* I'VE SINCE BEEN INFORMED THAT MUTTLEY WAS THE DOG OF DIRK DASTARDLY. SORRY, NERDS. I FAILED YOU.  
—H.E.

by Henry Eudy

.IN\*

IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR EPIPHANIES

♪ THAT'S GREAT IT STARTS WITH AN  
EARTHQUAKE, BIRDS AND SNAKES  
AND AEROPLANES ♪



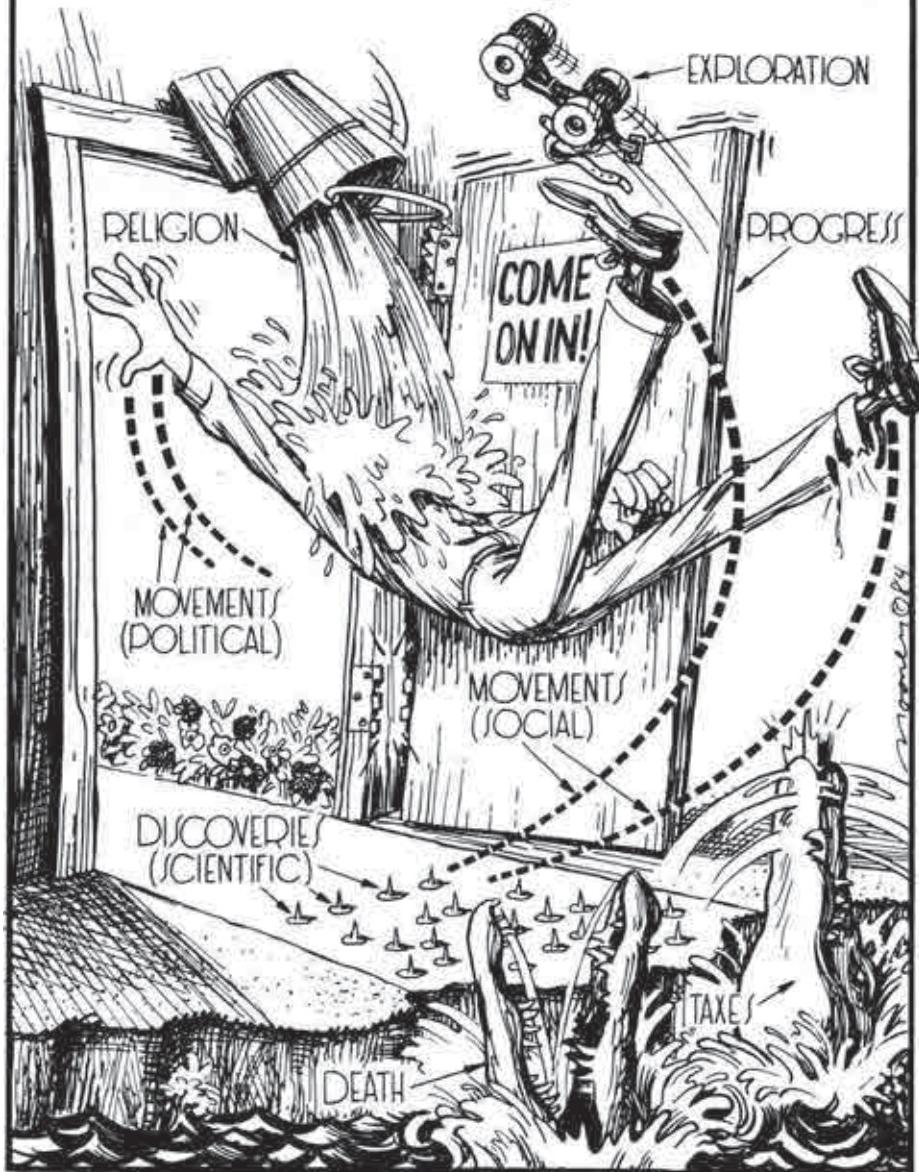
A TOURNAMENT, A TOURNAMENT,  
A TOURNAMENT OF LIES!

OH GOD...  
THIS IS  
REAL  
NOW.



by Henry Eudy

A SCHOLARLY AND REASONED OVERVIEW OF  
**How History Works**



BREAKFAST BURRITO WINES WESLEY HEIGHTS  
LOCAL COFFEE ABLT TRIVIA DJS RAW RHINO  
LIVE MUSIC CHICKEN UPTOWN GATHERING LUNCH CHAUD LEGUMES  
PROVISIONS MOREHEAD ST. - RHINO MARKET & DELI  
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DAILY SPECIALS SOUP OF THE DAY  
TAPAS ROTATING TAPS THE BIG SKINNY  
SANDWICHES OMELETTES



'toons by

# STEVE SMITH



Living  
in my  
car  
comics



Issue 1

THIS ISSUE

They're Daring!

They're Dauntless!

They're Recently Divorced!

They're

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Deadbeat Dad vs.

The

**ALLIGATOR!**

First,  
I'll take half  
of your salary...

Then,  
I'll take half of  
your secret lair!  
**Finally,** I'll destroy  
you and your  
sidekicks!

They're not  
**sidekicks.**  
I have the kids  
this weekend.

SMITH '20



# HYMNS OF PLAGUE

...FALL...

Death. Suicide.  
Anger. Hatred.

...SO SHALL  
WE FALL...

A musical subgenre filled with  
coldness, emptiness, and loathing.

INTO THE  
NIHIL?

THE NOTHINGNESS  
THAT WE  
FEEL...

IN  
THE  
ARMS  
OF THE  
PALE...

THE  
SHADOW  
OF OUR  
FRAIL  
COMPANION...

...WHO  
WALKS  
WITH US...

There aren't many things that give me comfort in this world.  
For some reason, extreme music is one of them.

I got my first extreme music record when I was fifteen years old. My foster family was incredibly religious, and my musical choices were limited--on the radio was either Classic 99, or Joy FM. I avoided the latter like the plague.

I SWEAR  
I SLIPPED  
RIGHT THROUGH  
THE CRACKS  
IN THE FLOOR

BUT IT'S  
SO EASY  
WHEN YOU'RE  
PULLIN' ME  
UNDER

Every year, for Christmas, they would pick up a praise and worship CD from the christian bookstore. I don't think they ever bothered figuring out what each record was, and somehow, Underoath's "Define The Great Line" snuck past them.

NOW I  
CAN SEE  
THINGS  
FROM THE  
OUTSIDE

AND I WILL  
SIT HERE  
WITH NO  
PLACE  
IN MIND

That oversight changed my life forever. I quickly went from the dissonant, post-hardcore sounds of Tooth And Nail Records to the punishing drum rhythms of The Berzerker and the chaotic synths of Genghis Tron, and never looked back.

I  
CAN'T  
ESCAPE

FROM  
THIS  
PLACE

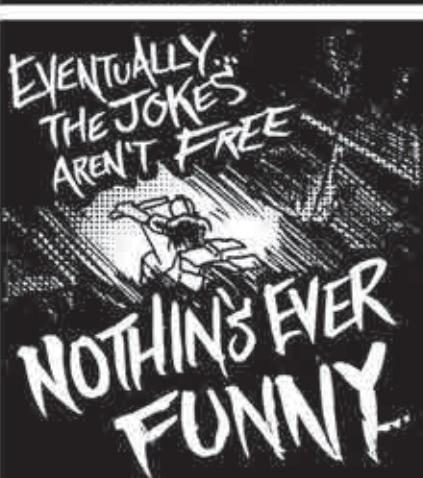
I sat alone in my room, doodled my flowers, and drowned myself in dissonant riffs--to be honest, were it not for comix and music, I probably would have taken my life.

Extreme music got me through the worst periods of my life, and was there during the few good ones as well. I listened to Fuck The Facts with my now ex-wife when we were homeless.

When I worked in a warehouse while trying to get off the streets, I would blast The Dillinger Escape Plan as I raced through the packing areas, fourteen hours into my sixteen hour shifts.



I blasted Pantera and Metallica while living in my car, and I would listen to Woods Of Ypres during my workouts when my dysphoria was at its worst when I first came out.



I don't know why I didn't gravitate to nicer things, more pleasant sounds, kinder lyrics-- perhaps it was because the world seemed angry at me, and I was angry at it in return.

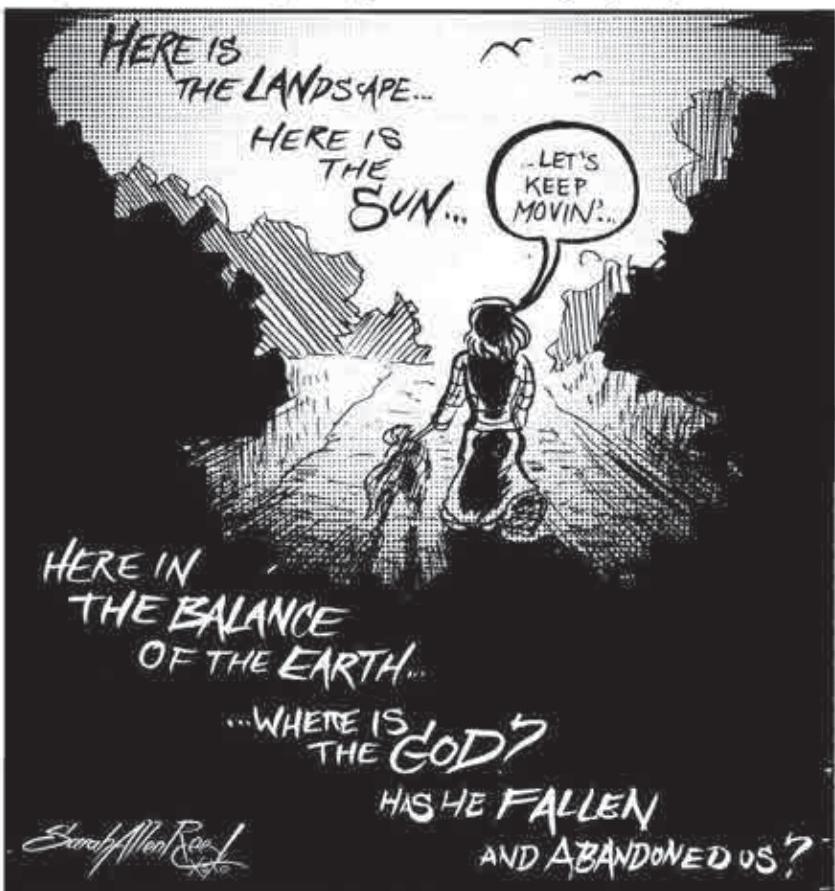


I've focused my energy a bit better as I've gotten older--I'm more focused, more intense, less violent, less angry, more intent on helping and less intent on destroying--but the blast beats still calm me, the harsh FM synths and distortion still push me through.

One would think that, now that I'm older, I would gravitate towards gentler sounds, kinder tones, less intense sonic experiences. There are occasions where I do, but they aren't often. There's still a type of catharsis to be found in the desolation of a wall of harsh noise, a welcoming familiarity in the maelstrom of fuzz pedals and HM-2s.



And besides...the world as we know it is dying around us. We live in a time of distortion, violence, and plague, and the way things used to be is dying away.



Its funeral needs a hymn.

## .IN\* ISSUE #6 CONTRIBUTORS



P. 4 A TRUE ENCOUNTER

### **GREG RUSSELL** WRITER/ARTIST

RUSSELL IS A TRUE CHARLATAN, BORN AND RAISED IN CHARLOTTE. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, WEB DESIGNER, WRITER AND EDITOR, BUT HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO IS DRAW COMICS. SEE EXAMPLES OF HIS WORK AT [GREGRUSSELL.US](http://GREGRUSSELL.US)



P. 6 ON THE FRINGES

### **RANDY CRAWFORD** WRITER

ORIGINALY FROM MERIDIAN, MS, CRAWFORD HAS LIVED IN CHARLOTTE SINCE 1993. HE ENJOYS WRITING AND DOING CONCEPTUAL ART.



### **JERRY KIRK** ARTIST

KIRK IS AN AWARD-WINNING ARTIST LOCATED IN CHARLOTTE. HIS WORK IS IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE HISTORIC N. DAVIDSON ST. ART DISTRICT KNOWN AS "NODA." FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE MORE ART, VISIT THE OFFICIAL SITE: [WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM](http://WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM)



P. 8 NU STAR COFFEE

### **MICHAEL GREELEY** WRITER/ARTIST

GREELEY IS A PREDOMINANTLY SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST FROM NEW JERSEY WHO'S SHOWN HIS WORK IN GALLERIES THROUGHOUT NYC, JERSEY CITY AND CHARLOTTE. ART WAS ORIGINALLY A PSYCHOLOGICAL RELEASE WHILE WORKING AS A COUNSELOR WITH SCHIZOPHRENIC AND DEVELOPMENTALLY/BEHAVIORALLY DISABLED POPULATIONS -- BUT IT HAS SINCE EVOLVED INTO A FULL-FLEDGED PASSION. TO SEE MORE OF HIS WORK, CHECK OUT HIS FACEBOOK PAGE ([WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PROFILE.PHP?ID=100011407223687](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PROFILE.PHP?ID=100011407223687)) OR CONTACT HIM AT [GREELEYM1117@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GREELEYM1117@GMAIL.COM).



P. 10 S.O.S. (SAVE OUR SPECIES)

### **RAHEKU** WRITER

RAHEKU IS A CREATOR OF MANY TALENTS INCLUDING POETRY. SHE IS ORIGINALY FROM LIBERIA AND COMES TO CHARLOTTE VIA LONG ISLAND AND PHILADELPHIA.

### **GREG RUSSELL** WRITER/ARTIST



P. 12 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

### **ANI TODD** WRITER/ARTIST

CHARLOTTE ARTIST TODD SPECIALIZES IN 2-DIMENSIONAL WORKS IN PEN, PENCIL, OIL AND CHALK PASTEL. A STORYTELLER BY NATURE, SHE WROTE AND ILLUSTRATED HER OWN COMICS STARTING IN ELEMENTARY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. HER WEBCOMIC "TALES FROM A SKETCHY ARTIST," CREATED IN 2018, ILLUSTRATES THE HUMOROUS ENCOUNTERS FOUND IN HER DAILY LIFE'S JOURNEY. SEE MORE OF HER ART AT [TALESFROMASKETCHYARTIST.COM](http://TALESFROMASKETCHYARTIST.COM)



P. 14 STAR DORK

**HENRY EUDY** WRITER/ARTIST

ACCORDING TO HIS INSTAGRAM PROFILE, EUDY IS A WIZARD. A TRUE STAR. YOU CAN FIND SAID INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT AT HENRY\_EUDY.

P. 16 LIFE DURING CORONA

**JERRY KIRK** WRITER/ARTIST

P. 18 CARTOONS BY KARLA HOLLAND

**KARLA HOLLAND** WRITER/ARTIST

HOLLAND IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND CARTOONIST IN WILMINGTON, NC. WHEN NOT COMPLETING A PROJECT, SHE CONTEMPLATES ART'S NAVEL ON INSTAGRAM @THEGORGONTRANSPLANT"

P. 20 PRE-COVID COMICS/IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR EPIPHANIES

**HENRY EUDY** WRITER/ARTIST

P. 22 MOONEY'S MODULE

**GERRY MOONEY** WRITER/ARTIST

MOONEY IS A NEW YORK COMMERCIAL ARTIST AND ILLUSTRATOR WHO HAS RETIRED TO CLAREMORE, OK, WITH HIS WIFE, PLAYWRIGHT VICKI LYNN MOONEY. GERRY CREATED GOO AND ROO IN 2005 IN AN UNSOLD BID FOR SYNDICATION. HE CONTINUES TO WORK ON PERSONAL PROJECTS AND THE OCCASIONAL FREELANCE WORK. CONTACT HIM AT GERRY@MOONEYART.COM.

P. 24 'TOONS BY STEVE SMITH

**STEVE SMITH** WRITER/ARTIST

SMITH IS A GREAT CARTOONIST AND A HELLUVA FUNNY GUY.



P. 26 HYMNS OF PLAGUE

**SARAH ALLEN REED** WRITER/ARTIST

BORN WITH A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT NAME AND ASSIGNED GENDER NEAR SAINT LOUIS, MO, REED PICKED UP A PEN AT THE AGE OF EIGHT AND DREW HER FIRST COMIC BOOK. HER WORK DEALS WITH LOSS, TRANS AND QUEER ISSUES, HER OWN BATTLES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND HOMELESSNESS, AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TRAUMA AND RELIGION. SHE CURRENTLY RESIDES SOMEWHERE IN COLORADO; ALTHOUGH, AS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE, THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VIST HER AT SARAHALLENREED.COM

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